



TRUE COLOURS

– Bringing Ferry’s Lane out of the shadows

This month we’ve been mostly watering! With periods of warm dry weather and with our plants flowering all over the city, it’s become a top priority to get water into the soil to keep the plants blooming. But we’re old hands at tending to the plants at this stage and have a big crew of volunteers to lighten the work.

While our regular work has continued, we have managed to do one project recently which we never tried before. Ferry’s Lane on Pope’s Quay, with steps that bring you from the riverside up to the historic Shandon area, gets sunlight on a good day for about 30 minutes. With Cork being a city that developed from old lanes and narrow streets, we wondered if we could do something to bring this laneway out of the shadows.

Our plan was simple. After deciding on a colour scheme our volunteers set out painting the rise of the stairs each step all the way to the top, with much encouragement and support from locals and passers-by.

There are examples of this type of street art all over the world, from Istanbul to Rio, and we’ve lost count of the number of times that people have suggested to us to do it in Cork. The poured concrete steps of Ferry’s Lane seemed the ideal place for Cork’s own version. While other steps in the city are made from beautiful Cork sandstone, the aesthetic quality of Ferry’s Lane step does little for the area.

The response to the steps has been brilliant. After posting pictures of the work online, it

quickly became one of our most popular projects to date. Scores of people have been taking selfies with the soft bright colours acting as a beautiful background and images of them have been popping up left, right and centre on Instagram and Facebook ever since.

Now, encouraged by the success on Ferry Lane, our hope is to do something similar elsewhere. We already have our eyes on the steps going from Bell’s Field down to Leirim St and will be looking into this over the next few weeks.

In other news, we’ve also begun working on a new project at Kyril’s Quay. We’ll be installing large wooden planter boxes around a vacant site near the end of Cornmarket St which has been fenced off with wooden hoarding for years. We hope to add some street art to the hoarding and the electrical boxes dotted around the area too.

Small measures like this can go a long way to making this spot more attractive until the site gets redeveloped, and hopefully, beyond that too. It’s always been our aim to show how our shared city spaces can be made more appealing for locals and visitors through street art and urban greening. Be sure to check our social media pages to see how we do it.



Along with this project we’ll also be working on lots of other urban gardening and street art projects in the coming months. Keep up to date with our work @MadAboutCork on Facebook, twitter and Instagram, and to get involved email info@madaboutcork.